

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated October 3, 2008. Claims 1 to 9 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 5, 7, 8 and 9 are the independent claims. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 7 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,409,401 (Petteruti). Claims 3 to 6 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Petteruti in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,530,702 (Palmer). Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 7 and 9

Claims 1, 7 and 9 generally concern image processing. First image information having an attribute for printing is printed on a recording medium, and second image information having an attribute for storing is written to a storage device attached to the recording medium.

According to one aspect of Claims 1, 7 and 9, the second image information stored in the storage device is read based on a user instruction. The user who performs the user instruction is specified. Based at least in part on level information written in the storage device, and at least in part on the specified user, the range of content to be read from the storage device and the content to be printed are varied.

For example, in one example embodiment described in the specification and

shown in Figure 4, a user who instructs a preview of information is authenticated in step S404, and the information according to the level of the authenticated user is read from the storage device.

By virtue of this arrangement, it is ordinarily possible to tailor the range of content to be read from a storage device attached to a recording medium to the current user, even though the recording medium may be shared by several different users.

Referring specifically to claim language, independent Claim 1 is directed to an image processing apparatus. The apparatus includes an input unit which inputs image information including a first image information having a first attribute for printing and a second image information having a second attribute for storing. The apparatus further includes a printer which prints an image based on the image information input by the input unit on a recording medium to which a storage device is attached, and a writing unit which writes the image information to the storage device attached to the recording medium. Additionally, the apparatus includes a controller which controls the printer and the writing unit to print the image based on the first image information having the first attribute input by the input unit on the recording medium and to write the second image information having the second attribute input by the input unit with a plurality of level information for visualizing to the storage device attached to the recording medium on which the image is printed by the printer. The apparatus also includes a reading unit which reads the second image information stored in the storage device based on a user instruction. In addition, the apparatus includes a specifying unit which specifies a user who performs the user instruction. The controller controls the printer to print an image based on the second image

information read by the reading unit on a recording sheet in a case where the reading unit reads the second image information, and to vary a range of content to be read by the reading unit and a content to be printed based at least in part on the level information written on the storage device by the writing unit and at least in part on the user specified by the specifying unit.

Independent Claims 7 and 9 are directed to a method and a computer readable program, respectively, substantially in accordance with the apparatus of Claim 1.

The applied art is not seen to disclose or suggest the features of Claims 1, 7 and 9, and in particular is not seen to disclose or suggest at least the features of (i) specifying a user who performs a read instruction to read information from a storage device attached to a recording medium, and (ii) varying a range of content to be read from the storage device and a content to be printed based at least in part on level information written on the storage device and at least in part on the specified user.

As understood by Applicants, Petteruti is directed to a portable printer including a printing mechanism for printing on media and an RFID encoder for encoding information onto RFID circuits attached to the media. See Petteruti, Abstract.

Page 4 of the Office Action asserts that Petteruti (Column 4, line 33 to Column 5, line 26) discloses varying content to be printed based on level information written on a storage device. Specifically, the Office Action asserts that information encoded in Petteruti's storage is varied by name, description, weight, or ID number.

However, the cited portions of Petteruti are seen only to describe writing

various types of information to RFID circuits. See Petteruti, Column 4, line 33 to Column 5, line 26. Petteruti is not seen to disclose or suggest varying information to be read from the RFID circuits, much less (i) specifying a user who performs a read instruction to read information from a storage device attached to a recording medium, and (ii) varying a range of content to be read from the storage device and a content to be printed based at least in part on level information written on the storage device and at least in part on the specified user.

Palmer has been reviewed and is not seen to remedy the deficiencies of Petteruti.

Therefore, independent Claims 1, 7 and 9 are believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

Claims 5 and 8

Independent Claim 5 is directed to an image processing method. The method includes a generating step of generating image information to be printed. The method further includes a setting step of setting an attribute of the image information generated in the generating step, the attribute indicating whether or not the image information is to be visualized. The method also includes a transmitting step of transmitting the image information generated in the generating step and the attribute set in the setting step to a printer loaded with a recording medium to which a storage device is attached. The method further includes a reading step of reading image information stored in the storage device based on a user instruction, and a specifying step of specifying a user who performs the user instruction. An image is printed on the recording medium based on

the stored image information read in the reading step in a case where the reading step reads the stored image information, and a range of content to be read in the reading step and a content to be printed are varied based at least in part on level information written on the storage device and at least in part on the user specified in the specifying step.

Independent Claim 8 is directed to a computer readable program substantially in accordance with the method of Claim 5.

As discussed above, the applied art is not seen to disclose or suggest (i) specifying a user who performs a read instruction to read information from a storage device attached to a recording medium, and (ii) varying a range of content to be read from the storage device and a content to be printed based at least in part on level information written on the storage device and at least in part on the specified user.

Accordingly, independent Claims 5 and 8 are also believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

The other claims in the application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed to be allowable over the applied references for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

No other matters being raised, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa,
California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to
our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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